

VISN 4 MIRECC Bulletin

Highlights of recent activity and accomplishments of our MIRECC faculty

Announcements

Volume 3, Issue 1

Award

The Behavioral Health Lab (BHL) Program located in the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is the recipient of the **2010 Bronze American Psychiatric Association Achievement Award for Psychiatric Services**. **James Tew, MD**, and **Johanna Klaus, PhD**, will be going to Boston in October to accept the award and give a workshop titled, *The Behavioral Health Lab: A Platform for Integrating Behavioral Health Treatment into Primary Care*.

Organizational News

Please join us in welcoming the newest staff members in Pittsburgh:

In October, **Suzanne Yang, MD**, began the VA *Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment* sponsored by the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). Dr. Yang received her medical degree from the University of California-San Francisco, and completed her psychiatry residency at Columbia University. She was a fellow in forensic psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University and a Postdoctoral Scholar in Clinical Research Training in Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh prior to joining the VA. Her research focuses on the structured assessment of risk for future violence and the development of clinical intervention strategies for violence prevention.

James Conley recently joined the MIRECC as a Research Associate. He will be working with Dr. Adam Gordon on his *Pharmacogenetic Response to Naltrexone for Alcohol Dependence and Determinants of Diabetes Control in Veterans with Serious Mental Illness* studies.

Lauren Fox has joined the MIRECC as a Research Associate. She will be working with Dr. John Kasckow on his *Use of Telehealth System to Monitor Suicidality in Schizophrenia and Development of a Manual for Patients with Schizophrenia and Suicidality* studies.

Please join us in welcoming the newest staff members in Philadelphia:

In September, **Sara Levine Kornfield, PhD**, began the VA *Advanced Fellowship Program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment* specializing in Integrated Primary Care Psychology. Dr. Kornfield received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Drexel University and completed her predoctoral internship at the Northport (NY) VAMC. Her research interests include women's health, gender differences in PTSD, and development of a brief treatment for PTSD to be delivered in a Primary Care setting.

Heather Davidson, MS, and **Jenna Haywood, BA**, recently joined the Philadelphia site of the MIRECC as Research Assistants. They will be working with Dr. Steve Sayers on the *Families At Ease initiative* and his HSR&D grant, *Complicated Family Reintegration in OEF/OIF Veterans*.

Jillian Taylor, BA, and **Meagan Gradyon, BA**, are the newest health technicians to join the BHL team at the Philadelphia site.

Three new staff members will be working with Dr. Shahrzad Mavandadi on the VISN 2 MHEC Dementia pilot study. **Patricia Kirby, BS**, will be working as the project's research assistant, **Cheryl Douglas, RN**, as the nurse care manager and **Bree Miller, MA**, as the project's coordinator and therapist. The team will also be working on Dr. Mavandadi's *Engaging Caregivers in the Care of Veterans with Dementia* project.

Research Accomplishments/News

Lauren Broyles, PhD, RN, has been awarded a 5-year VA Career Development Award (CDA-2) for her project *Improving the Detection and Management of Alcohol Misuse in VA Inpatients*. Her CDA mentors include Mary Ann Seveck, ScD, RN; **Adam J. Gordon, MD, MPH**; Michael J. Fine, MD, MSc; and Kevin L. Kraemer, MD, MSc. She is the recipient of a MIRECC Pilot Project Award on *Assessing Readiness for Nurse Implementation of Alcohol Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment [RN-SBIRT]*.

Selected Education Activities

Recent Events:

VA National Mental Health Conference: Implementing a Public Health Model for Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Veterans

MIRECC Staff were well represented at the VA National Mental Health Conference held in Baltimore, MD, July 2010. Not only were numerous staff in attendance, the following presentations and posters were facilitated by VISN 4 MIRECC staff:

Presentations:

Matthew Chinman: *VA HOMES: Building Capacity of VA Homeless Staff to Adopt and Self-Evaluate Evidence-Based Treatments Through the Getting to Outcomes Framework*

Adam Gordon: *Comparative Outcomes of VA Office-Based Buprenorphine and Methadone Treatment for Opioid Dependence in the VA*

John Kasckow: *Use of a Telehealth Intervention for Patients with Schizophrenia and Suicidality: Preliminary Outcome Data*

David Oslin: *Treatment Barriers and Preferences for Alcohol Dependent Veterans in Primary Care*

David Oslin: *Psychiatric Status and Work Performance in Veterans of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom*

Steven Sayers: *"Families at Ease"-Outreach and Coaching of Family Members of Military Veterans*

Posters:

L Clark, K Starver, J Tew, CB Good, **J Peters**, T Burke, MD, **G Haas**, A Pasquale, K Ehman, **J Klaus:** *Improving Access and Safety of Varenicline for Smoking Cessation Using Telephone Care Management*

S Forman, B Meyers, L Pisarov, K Regan: *Brain Error Activity Predicts Smoking Relapse Risk*

S Forman, K Regan, **B Meyers, L Pisarov:** *Smoking Cue-Reactivity and Relapse Risk*

A Helstrom, J Klaus, L Maas, N Jacques, **D Oslin:** *Enhancing Integrated Primary Care Services and Mental Health Access in a Post Deployment Integrated Care Clinic*

J Kasckow, E Ingram, J Tew, C Brown, K Conner, J Morse, C Reynolds, **D Oslin:** *Treatment Attitudes of Subsyndromally Depressed African American and Caucasian Primary Care Veterans*

J Klaus, S Mavandadi, R Helms, **E Ingram, D Oslin:** *Pain Disability Moderates Depression Monitoring Outcomes for Primary Care Veterans Newly Prescribed an Antidepressant*

S Mavandadi, J Klaus, N Jacques, **E Ingram, D Oslin:** *The Relationship between Suicide Ideation and Social Exchanges among Veterans Referred for a Behavioral Health*

T Schmitz, A McCabe, A Barron, M Dichter, **S Sayers:** *Impact of fear related to domestic violence on treatment seeking in a sample of recently returned military veterans (OEF/OIF)*

ML Smith, D Rosen, R Engel, R Schulz, S Goodkind: *Concurrent Alcohol and Medication Use among Community-Dwelling Older Adults*

Upcoming Events:

The **7th annual PADRECC/MIRECC Symposium on Neurodegenerative Diseases: New Developments in the Diagnosis and Management of Neuropsychiatric Disorders** will take place in Philadelphia in April 2011. Stay tuned for further details!

Did you know... ?

...during the last 10 years over 4,000 attendees have participated in MIRECC education programs.

VISN 4 MIRECC

Philadelphia VAMC/116A
University & Woodland Avenues
Philadelphia, PA 19104

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
7180 Highland Drive, 151R-H
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

David Oslin, MD
Director
VISN 4 MIRECC

Gretchen Haas, PhD
Site Director
VISN 4 MIRECC Pittsburgh

VISN 4 MIRECC Bulletin Contact: Sara Chapman, MS, OTR/L, sara.chapman@va.gov